

Pursuing A Nursing Degree

Future Career:

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, registered nurses constitute the largest health care occupation, with 2.4 million jobs, and are projected to create the second largest number of new jobs among all occupations. It is expected that employment in nursing will grow rapidly for all specialties through 2014. Nursing is a large occupation, so it is believed that many new jobs will result and that employment settings will be excellent, with some employers reporting difficulty in attracting and retaining enough registered nurses. Currently, about 3 out of 5 jobs are in hospitals and about 1 in 4 nurses work part-time. There are a variety of educational paths provided for those interested in becoming a registered nurse.

For more information, visit the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) website (or see link below)

Develop Your Skill Set:

- Analytical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Care/empathy
- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Multi-tasking
- Organization
- Research

Earning Your Degree:

UNI does not currently offer a nursing degree, but works with any student considering a nursing degree to help them explore degree options and to be knowledgeable about the career field. The U.S. Department of Labor suggests three degrees as entry-level paths to nursing: Bachelor of Science, Associate degree, or Diploma. Every program is unique and the number of years to complete a program is determined by the type of program and institution.

Bachelor of Science Nursing (BS/BSN)

A four- to five- year program offered at colleges and universities to prepare nurses for practice in all health care settings. A BSN prepares nurses for staff positions in hospitals and other inpatient facilities and is required for most full-time nursing positions.

Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)

A two- to three- year program offered in the community college designed to prepare nurses to provide direct patient care in settings such as hospitals and other inpatient facilities.

Hospital Diploma

A two- to three- year program that prepares nurses to deliver direct patient care in a variety of environments, such as staff positions in hospitals and other inpatient facilities. Programs are located in a hospital and sometimes work in conjunction with a community college program.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

This is a one-year program designed to teach individuals to provide basic care for patients, such as taking pulse or temperature, under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse.

Other Nursing School Considerations:

Some schools require individuals to complete a specific set of coursework before they will be admitted into the nursing program. If you are considering nursing, begin learning what types of math, science, and elective courses are required for those programs.

These programs prepare students to take the national licensing examination (NCLEX-RN) in order to obtain a license within the state they wish to work. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing provides information about the exam and each state board (www.ncsbn.org).

Other Program Options:

Some individuals may find themselves in a position where they have already earned their Bachelors degree or are interested in completing their current degree program. An individual in this situation may consider being part of an accelerated program or a Masters program in nursing. This may also be an appropriate route for those who have already earned their two-year Associate degree in nursing and wish to continue their education.

Accelerated Programs

Some universities offer nursing programs for students who already have a Bachelors degree or even a Masters degree in a field other than nursing. These programs are often shorter than a full nursing program, but they are an ideal option for those looking to enter the career field.

Masters Program (MSN)

Masters degree programs are designed to prepare nurses for more independent and specialized positions such as nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or nurse psychotherapist.

For those planning to complete a degree at UNI, it is important to discuss with an advisor the best options available. To begin your exploration, select the link below or visit the URL at the bottom of the page to explore UNI majors, minors, and certificates.

Click here to see a full list of [UNI Majors and Minors](#) (or see link below)

Accredited Baccalaureate Programs In Iowa:

School Name and City	Degree Offered
Allen College – Waterloo	Bachelors and Masters
Clarke College – Dubuque	Bachelors and Masters
Coe College – Cedar Rapids	Bachelors
Dordt College – Sioux Center	Bachelors
Grand View College – Des Moines	Bachelors
Luther College – Decorah	Bachelors
Mercy College of Health Sciences – Des Moines	Bachelors
Mount Mercy College – Cedar Rapids	Bachelors
St. Ambrose University – Davenport	Bachelors
University of Dubuque – Dubuque	Bachelors
University of Iowa – Iowa City	Bachelors and Masters

For more information, visit the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#) (or see link below)

UNI Pre-Nursing Professor Contacts:

Name	Department	Phone	Office Location
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More Information:

- UNI Majors, Minors, and Certificates: www.uni.edu/pos/
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing: www.aacn.nche.edu
- American Nurses Association: www.nursingworld.org
- Discover Nursing: www.discovernursing.com
- National League for Nursing: www.nln.org/
- US Department of Labor Nursing Information: www.bls.gov/oco/ocos083.htm